

Ryne Roper, Brian Berkel, Caleb Bailey, Justin Younger, Cody Hall, Isaac Ingram, Caleb Bartok, Gabe Oglesby, Phillip West, Brandon Pate and Chris Wilsey.

This outstanding group of young men represented themselves, their school, families and community in a first-rate fashion. It is my privilege to congratulate them on a job well done.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRESERVATION OF ANTIBIOTICS FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT ACT

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 17, 2009*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce legislation that is critically important in preventing our current stock of antibiotics from becoming obsolete. As a mother, grandmother, and microbiologist, I cannot stress the urgency of this problem enough.

Two million Americans acquire bacterial infections during their hospital stay every year, and 70 percent of their infections will be resistant to the drugs commonly used to treat them. As a result, every day thirty-eight patients in our hospitals will die of those infections.

Sadly, children and infants are particularly susceptible to infections caused by antibiotic resistant bacteria. For example, Salmonella causes 1.4 million illnesses every year. Over one-third of all diagnoses occur in children under the age of 10. Infants under the age of one are 10 times more likely than the general population to acquire a Salmonella infection. In 1995, 19 percent of Salmonella strains were found to be multi-drug resistant. That means that our children are left to undergo multiple treatments for otherwise simple infections because we have allowed traditional treatments to become ineffective.

And the cost to our already strained health care system is astronomical. In fact, resistant bacterial infections increase health care costs by \$4 billion to \$5 billion each year.

Currently, seven classes of antibiotics certified by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as "highly" or "critically" important in human medicine are used in agriculture as animal feed additives. Among them are penicillin, tetracyclines, macrolides, lincosamides, streptogramins, aminoglycosides, and sulfonamides. These classes of antibiotics are among the most critically important in our arsenal of defense against potentially fatal human diseases.

Penicillins, for example, are used to treat infections ranging from strep throat to meningitis. Macrolides and Sulfonamides are used to prevent secondary infections in patients with AIDS and to treat pneumonia in HIV-infected patients. Tetracyclines are used to treat people potentially exposed to anthrax.

Despite their importance in human medicine, these drugs are added to animal feed as growth promotants and for routine disease prevention. Approximately 70 percent of antibiotics and related drugs produced in the U.S. are given to cattle, pigs, and chicken to promote growth and to compensate for crowded, unsanitary, stressful conditions. The nontherapeutic use of antibiotics in poultry skyrocketed

from 2 million pounds in 1985 to 10.5 million pounds in the late 1990s.

This kind of habitual, nontherapeutic use of antibiotics has been conclusively linked to a growing number of incidents of antimicrobial-resistant infections in humans, and may be contaminating ground water with resistant bacteria in rural areas. In fact, a National Academy of Sciences report states that, "a decrease in antimicrobial use in human medicine alone will have little effect on the current situation. Substantial efforts must be made to decrease inappropriate overuse in animals and agriculture as well."

Resistant bacteria can be transferred from animals to humans in several ways. Antibiotic resistant bacteria can be found in the meat and poultry that we purchase in the grocery store. In fact, a New England Journal of Medicine study conducted in Washington, DC found that 20 percent of the meat sampled was contaminated with Salmonella and 84 percent of those bacteria were resistant to antibiotics used in human medicine and animal agriculture. Bacteria can also be transferred from animals to humans via workers in the livestock industry who handle animals, feed, and manure. Farmers may then transfer the bacteria on to their family. A third method is via the environment. Nearly 2 trillion pounds of manure generated in the U.S. annually contaminate our groundwater, surface water, and soil. Because this manure contains resistant bacteria, the resistant bacteria can then be passed on to humans that come in contact with the water sources or soil.

And the problem has been well documented.

A 2002 analysis of more than 500 scientific articles and published in the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases* found that "many lines of evidence link antimicrobial resistant human infections to foodborne pathogens of animal origin."

The Institute of Medicine's 2003 report on *Microbial Threats to Health* concluded "Clearly, a decrease in the inappropriate use of antimicrobials in human medicine alone is not enough. Substantial efforts must be made to decrease inappropriate overuse in animals and agriculture as well."

As the impact of MRSA continues to unfold, there is little doubt that antibiotic resistant diseases are a growing public health menace demanding a high priority response. Despite increased attention to the issue, the response has been inadequate. Part of the problem has been the FDA's failure to adequately address the effect of the misuse of animal antibiotics on the efficacy of human drugs.

Although the FDA could withdraw its approval for these antibiotics, its record of reviewing currently approved drugs under existing procedures indicates that it would take nearly a century to get these medically important antibiotics out of the feed given to food producing animals. In October 2000, for example, the FDA began consideration of a proposal to withdraw its approval for the therapeutic use of fluoroquinolones in poultry. The review, and eventual withdrawal of approval, took five years to complete. Under its regulations, the FDA must review each class of antibiotics separately.

The legislation I am reintroducing today, the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act, would phase out the use of the seven classes of medically significant anti-

biotics that are currently approved for non-therapeutic use in animal agriculture. Make no mistake, this bill would in no way infringe upon the use of these drugs to treat a sick animal. It simply proscribes their nontherapeutic use.

Madam Speaker, when we go to the grocery store to pick up dinner, we should be able to buy our food without worrying that eating it will expose our family to potentially deadly bacteria that will no longer respond to our medical treatments. Unless we act now, we will unwittingly be permitting animals to serve as incubators for resistant bacteria.

It is time for Congress to stand with scientists, the World Health Organization, the American Medical Association, and the National Academy of Sciences and do something to address the spread of resistant bacteria. We cannot afford for our medicines to become obsolete.

I urge my colleagues to support the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act to protect the integrity of our antibiotics and the health of American families.

TRIBUTE TO TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 17, 2009*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an important community institution in Mt. Vernon, Illinois.

In February, Trinity Episcopal Church celebrated its 100th anniversary. Since the first service was held at 1100 Harrison Street in Mt. Vernon on January 3, 1909, thousands of people have visited Trinity Episcopal to worship with their neighbors. Generations of families in Mt. Vernon and Jefferson County have been welcomed into the congregation.

Today, Trinity Episcopal is an important part of the spiritual fabric of the community and serves as a good neighbor to families in need throughout the area. Through a century of the congregation's generosity, many have found a helping hand, warm embrace, and comfort in times of despair.

I want to congratulate Father Gene Tucker of Trinity Episcopal, all members of the congregation, and the extended Trinity Episcopal family on 100 years of service and thank them for the important role they play in our community.

RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA), THE JET PROPULSION LABORATORY (JPL), AND CORNELL UNIVERSITY FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE MARS EXPLORATION ROVERS, SPIRIT AND OPPORTUNITY, ON THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROVERS' SUCCESSFUL LANDING

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 17, 2009*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, just over 5 years ago, two engineering marvels—the Mars

Exploration Rovers Spirit and Opportunity—captured the imagination of the American public and the world when they landed on Mars to begin a 3 month-long NASA mission. The mission objective was to search for signs that water may have been present for long periods of time—signs that could tell us whether the Red Planet had been hospitable to life in the past. Within the first several months of the Mars mission, the NASA Web site experienced over a billion site visits. The Mars Exploration Rovers have been a wildly successful mission, with more than 13 miles of harsh Martian terrain traversed and over a quarter million awe-inspiring images from the Martian surface captured, in addition to many thousands of scientific spectra that lends to our study of Mars.

Spirit and Opportunity have made many important discoveries over the last 5 years. One of the most significant discoveries was evidence of water and geological information that supports an understanding that ancient Martian environments included periods of wet, possibly habitable conditions.

I wholeheartedly support H. Res. 67, the resolution offered by my friends and colleagues from southern California, Mr. SCHIFF and Mr. DREIER to honor NASA, their team from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and Cornell University on 5 years of great engineering and scientific discovery.

TRIBUTE TO Y-YARD AUTO AND TRUCK, INC.

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 17, 2009*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Y-Yard Auto and Truck, Inc. of Effingham, Illinois.

Y-Yard Auto and Truck, Inc. was awarded the Automotive Recyclers Association CAR Star award in recognition of their commitment to environmental stewardship in the automotive recycling industry.

I would like to congratulate Y-Yard Auto and Truck, Inc. for this achievement, earned by upholding the highest in standards of environmental consciousness, safety, and customer service setting a leading example in their industry and community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 17, 2009*

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote 125, on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 987, the John Scott Challis, Jr. Post Office Designation Act, I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall vote 126, on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1217, the Specialist Peter J. Navarro Post Office Building Designation Act, I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall vote 127, on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1284, the Major Ed W.

Freeman Post Office Designation Act, I would have voted "aye."

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT E. DUIGNAN

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 17, 2009*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, California and to the United States of America are exceptional. This country has been fortunate to have dedicated, honorable, and steadfast leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent to make our communities better places to live and work. General Robert E. Duignan of the United States Air Force is one of these individuals and today I thank him for 36 years of service to our great nation. On Sunday, January 25, 2009, General Duignan was honored with a retirement celebration at March Air Reserve Base in Riverside, California.

General Duignan took his first plane ride at the age of 13, traveling from Seattle to New York, and from that moment he knew that he wanted to fly airplanes. He attended the University of Washington on an ROTC scholarship and earned a bachelor's degree in business. He entered the Air Force during the Vietnam War, a time when it was not popular to be in the military, and he experienced firsthand the objection to the war on his college campus. However, he never changed course and after graduation he spent 14 years at Travis Air Force Base, flying C-141 cargo planes on missions across the world, sometimes to pick up a single wounded soldier.

In 1989, General Duignan was promoted to Deputy Commander of Operations for the 459th Military Airlift Wing. While serving in this post, General Duignan witnessed the September 11, 2001, attack on the Pentagon and focused his efforts on the Global War on Terror as the Director of Plans and Programs at Headquarters AFRC. After two years, he returned to March Air Reserve Base and has worked tirelessly in support of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. As the Commander of the 4th Air Force he has supervised the Reserve's long-range airlift and air refueling units located throughout the continental United States, Hawaii and Guam. It is also important to note that during his career, he has accumulated more than 5,000 flying hours as a pilot flying the C-141, C-5, T-38 and T-37 aircraft.

As we look at the incredibly rich military history of our country we realize that this history is comprised of men, just like General Robert Duignan, who bravely fought for the ideals of freedom and democracy. Each story is unique and humbling for those of us who, far from the dangers they have faced, live our lives in relative comfort and ease. Today I offer my gratitude for the decades of service and I salute Major General Robert Duignan as he retires from the United States Air Force.

FAIR TAX

**HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 17, 2009*

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight a unique and innovative economic stimulus proposal that doesn't rely on large amounts of government spending, borrowing from foreign governments, or rebate checks. Instead, the Fair Tax would be a permanent economic stimulus that would have none of the transparency issues of conventional spending, or of the current tax code under the IRS. As a co-sponsor of H.R. 25, the Fair Tax Act, I believe that simplification of the 45,000 page tax code will empower the American people through returning their earned spending power to them, and by reducing government spending.

The Fair Tax replaces all federal income and payroll based taxes with a progressive national retail sales tax, a prebate to ensure no American pays federal taxes on spending up to the poverty level, dollar-for-dollar federal revenue neutrality, and, through companion legislation, the repeal of the 16th Amendment. It abolishes all federal personal and corporate income taxes, gift, estate, capital gains, alternative minimum, Social Security, Medicare, and self-employment taxes and replaces them with one simple, visible, federal retail sales tax administered primarily by existing state sales tax authorities.

As April 15th approaches, imagine this: no tax forms to wade through, no worries about deductions, withholding, or underpayment, and no payroll tax. Instead you, just like every American, would have more take-home income that could be put towards things like mortgage bills, thereby addressing one of the root causes of this economic crisis.

I hope that in the future we will consider such innovative proposals as the Fair Tax, and I thank my colleagues Rep. JOHN LINDER from Georgia who has done so much to publicize the idea of the Fair Tax, and Rep. STEVE KING of Iowa who called this Special Order.

Madam Speaker, we can do something better than haphazard spending to get us out of this economic mess. We can simplify a tax code that destroys wealth, and replace it with one that lets Americans keep their entire paycheck. It's time for new solutions, and not more of the old tax and spend.

HONORING THE KNIGHTS OF PETER CLAVER, INC. AND THE CENTENNIAL OF THEIR FOUNDING

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 17, 2009*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Knights of Peter Claver, Inc. and to celebrate this group's century of dedication to God, Church, and Community through Charity.

In November of 1909, a group of forty African American men became the first initiates of a Catholic fraternal order called the Knights of